Aircraft taken on lease from ZAS Airlines by IA

923. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines had in the past taken aircrafts on lease from ZAS Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details and present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) M/s. ZAS Airlines operated services with their aircraft and crew for Indian Airlines on Male-Trivan-drum sector during the period 13-12-1992 to 11-2-1993 when services of Indian Airlines were disrupted owing to agitation by its pilots. These services' were operated under a commercial arrangement between Indian Airlines and M/s. ZAS Airlines.

Amount Spent on Advertisements on Tourism Vayudoot, AI and IA

924. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state what is the amount spent by his Ministry on advertisements in newspapers on tourism, Vayudoot, Air India and Indian Airlines during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suggestion by the Government of Tripura for Promoting Tourism

925. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tripura has urged the Central Government recently to take steps to open a transit route through Bangladesh with a view to promoting tourism ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to go ahead with the suggestion of the State Government; arid

(d) what is the expenditure likely to be incurred by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Goods by Officials of Indian Air Carriers

926. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Indian Air Carriers that have international flights ;

(b) whether some officials of there air carriers have been found guilty of bring ing in smuggled goods on the return flights during 1992 and so far in 1993 ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Both national darners i.e. Air India and Indian Airlines are operating international passenger flights from/to India.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger of Indian Airlines and Vayudoot

927. SHRI SURESH KALMADT : SHRI GOVINBRAO ADIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOUMSM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Observer' of 22nd November, 1993 under the caption "Indian Airlines Vayudoot merger in trouble"; and